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**PROPRIETARY MATERIAL NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC.
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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EMPLOYEE**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: George H. HOFFMAN, et al.

Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND
COMPUTER PROGRAM
PRODUCT FOR
DISTRIBUTOR/SUPPLIER
SELECTION IN A SUPPLY CHAIN
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Appl. No.: 09/834,924

Filing Date: 04/13/2001

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 2176

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**TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR
PROPRIETARY INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.56 AND MPEP §§ 724.02 AND 724.04**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Attached hereto is a Proprietary Information Disclosure Statement submitting proprietary information to the Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and MPEP §724. Applicant respectfully requests that the information be considered only by the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application, or other authorized Patent and Trademark Office employee.

Respectfully submitted,

Date January 28, 2003

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER
Customer Number: 22428



22428

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Telephone: (202) 672-5485
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William T. Ellis
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,874



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**PROPRIETARY INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.56 AND MPEP § 724**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following is a listing of co-pending U.S. patent applications, which relate(s)
to the above-identified application.

<u>SERIAL NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>	<u>SERIAL NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>
09/815,463	March 23, 2001	09/815,734	March 23, 2001
09/815,489	March 23, 2001	09/815,759	March 23, 2001
09/815,490	March 23, 2001	09/815,777	March 23, 2001
09/815,515	March 23, 2001	09/815,792	March 23, 2001
09/815,559	March 23, 2001	09/815,813	March 23, 2001
09/815,580	March 23, 2001	09/815,830	March 23, 2001
09/815,590	March 23, 2001	09/815,845	March 23, 2001
09/815,598	March 23, 2001	09/815,864	March 23, 2001
09/815,606	March 23, 2001	09/815,893	March 23, 2001
09/815,660	March 23, 2001	09/815,894	March 23, 2001
09/815,668	March 23, 2001	09/815,897	March 23, 2001
09/815,688	March 23, 2001	09/815,899	March 23, 2001
09/815,715	March 23, 2001	09/815,973	March 23, 2001
09/815,725	March 23, 2001	09/815,989	March 23, 2001
09/815,727	March 23, 2001	09/816,021	March 23, 2001
09/815,729	March 23, 2001	09/816,033	March 23, 2001
09/815,731	March 23, 2001	09/816,048	March 23, 2001

<u>SERIAL NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>	<u>SERIAL NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>
09/816,069	March 23, 2001	09/816,428	March 23, 2001
09/816,075	March 23, 2001	09/816,429	March 23, 2001
09/816,083	March 23, 2001	09/816,430	March 23, 2001
09/816,092	March 23, 2001	09/816,431	March 23, 2001
09/816,101	March 23, 2001	09/816,434	March 23, 2001
09/816,121	March 23, 2001	09/816,454	March 23, 2001
09/816,151	March 23, 2001	09/816,455	March 23, 2001
09/816,160	March 23, 2001	09/816,471	March 23, 2001
09/816,167	March 23, 2001	09/816,488	March 23, 2001
09/816,187	March 23, 2001	09/816,491	March 23, 2001
09/816,203	March 23, 2001	09/816,495	March 23, 2001
09/816,212	March 23, 2001	09/816,503	March 23, 2001
09/816,231	March 23, 2001	09/816,507	March 23, 2001
09/816,249	March 23, 2001	09/816,536	March 23, 2001
09/816,268	March 23, 2001	09/816,537	March 23, 2001
09/816,269	March 23, 2001	09/816,543	March 23, 2001
09/816,285	March 23, 2001	09/816,553	March 23, 2001
09/816,296	March 23, 2001	09/816,555	March 23, 2001
09/816,314	March 23, 2001	09/816,560	March 23, 2001
09/816,331	March 23, 2001	09/816,561	March 23, 2001
09/816,349	March 23, 2001	09/816,564	March 23, 2001
09/816,357	March 23, 2001	09/816,565	March 23, 2001
09/816,358	March 23, 2001	09/816,567	March 22, 2001
09/816,388	March 23, 2001	09/816,576	March 23, 2001
09/816,412	March 23, 2001	09/816,582	March 23, 2001
09/816,413	March 23, 2001	09/816,881	March 23, 2001
09/816,414	March 23, 2001	09/816,896	March 23, 2001
09/816,420	March 23, 2001	09/816,922	March 23, 2001
09/816,421	March 23, 2001	09/816,944	March 23, 2001
09/816,422	March 23, 2001	09/816,976	March 23, 2001
09/816,424	March 23, 2001	09/834,465	April 13, 2001
09/816,426	March 23, 2001	09/834,600	April 13, 2001
09/816,427	March 23, 2001	09/834,838	April 13, 2001

Applicant considers the aforementioned documents and the disclosure of their existence as pending applications to constitute proprietary information. This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended as an admission either that the listed applications constitute prior art against the claims of the present application or that the listed applications are material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

Applicant assumes that the examiner will have access to all of the references cited in the applications. However, if the examiner wishes applicants to submit copies



Atty. Dkt. No. 062834-0111

of the references cited in the listed applications, the examiner is encouraged to inform applicants.

Accompanying this Proprietary Information Disclosure Statement is a transmittal letter indicating that the materials contained herein are proprietary, as required by MPEP § 724.02.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(B) prior to the mailing date of the first official action.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the foregoing information and provide in the next official communication the information set forth in MPEP § 724.04(a), particularly the information under item (3), so that the applicant can, if appropriate, subsequently file a petition to expunge those materials, as provided according to MPEP § 724.05.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney for Applicant
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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.